**CEPP Meeting Minutes**

**19 October 2011**

**In attendance:** Michael Arnush, Logan Brenner (student), Janet Casey, Rubén Graciani, Mimi Hellman, Christine Kopec, Susan Kress, Joshua Ness, Thomas Rivera (student), Timothy Harper (guest).

The minutes for the meeting of 12 October 2011 were approved with minor revisions.

The Committee discussed briefly the possibility of setting up web links from the CEPP webpage to collected documents relevant to particular issues or initiatives. Hence CEPP imagines a portal to documents related to Transition and Transformation, the Cultural Diversity requirement, etc. Such collections would allow faculty to access easily, prior to faculty meetings and other public discussions, any relevant materials.

The new proposal for the Cultural Diversity requirement was the primary topic of conversation. After considerable discussion, CEPP agreed to change the proposal by collapsing the course categories of Non-Western, Cultural Diversity, and Considering Difference into a single category (to be called “Considering Difference”); students would fulfill the CD requirement by taking two courses from this single category (in addition to the Foreign Language requirement, which remains unchanged). The only limitation on student choice would be that the two courses must be taken in two different departments/programs. This approach has three major advantages:

 1. It streamlines the requirement, making it easier to understand and hence administer;

 2. It acknowledges the increasing globalization and interdisciplinarity inherent to today’s scholarship and teaching (making the western/non-western bifurcation less relevant than in the past);

 3. It eliminates possible confusion for faculty members who may be uncertain as to where to “place” their courses within the various CD category options.

Possibilities for capturing/assessing student experiences in these courses, as well as in the curriculum as a whole, were also discussed.

The Committee also considered the mechanisms necessary to evaluate Study Abroad courses that could potentially fulfill the CD requirement. A designated subcommittee that would evaluate these options on an individual basis seems necessary, and might be modeled on the Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Programs (ACOP), which currently evaluates Study Abroad coursework. While the new committee would no doubt have a great deal of work initially, the load should diminish as the committee gradually becomes more familiar with typical SA courses offered regularly in our most popular SA programs. Although possibly inaugurated by CEPP, this committee need not remain connected to CEPP but could stand independently. CEPP also feels that it would be beneficial for students to propose for themselves which of their SA courses ought to count as CD, which would encourage them to take more responsibility for their requirements/curriculum.

Finally, CEPP discussed some of the particular language in the CD proposal, notably the descriptions of the possible kinds of difference that might be studied within CD courses. CEPP decided that the current language is rather cumbersome and requires streamlining. Josh Ness, Michael Arnush, and Tim Harper will work further on it in the coming week. CEPP still hopes to offer a proposal to the faculty at the November faculty meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Janet Casey